



The World of Takami Sakurai's Paintings 1 **by Osamu Fukano**

Whenever I try to talk about Takami Sakurai, I cannot help feeling frustrated. This is because it seems that the brilliant charm of Sakurai's paintings continues to be ignored by the people closest to us.

No matter how many times I exclaim loudly that Sakurai's paintings are wonderful, I sometimes feel a suspicious, half-smiling look on my face, as if to say, "Do you really believe that? Is this my misunderstanding of the people around me?"

It may be a misunderstanding, but it seems to me that they would not understand the appeal (value) of Takami Sakurai's paintings unless I put my own awareness in front of them and clarify myself.

Takami Sakurai is wonderful. I often hear the compliment, "Takami Sakurai is wonderful; his energy and receptiveness are great. This compliment has a double meaning.

Who is the person who led Kyushu-Ha and put his whole body on the line for the avant-garde art movement, and who has left an indelible mark on the postwar art history? It was Sakurai Takami.